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November 26, 1951

MEMORANDUM

TO: S/P - Mr. Robert Joyce  
FROM: P - John Devine  
SUBJECT: CIA/OPC Strategic Plan

In response to your request of November 14th, I have studied the psychological warfare Annex of the CIA/OPC Strategic Plan. The Annex has also been reviewed by Mr. Barrett and his policy advisor, Mr. Oren Stephens.

Our general reaction is favorable. In view of the security considerations involved, it was not possible to give the document the careful analysis and comparison with the details of our overt propaganda approach which, in many ways, would be desirable. It seems to us who have read the document that the statement of the mission of covert PW and the analysis of the situation faced in this regard are unexceptionable. It is in connection with suggested operations that some difficulties arise for us. The basis of our difficulty is, I believe, the failure, in the paper, to differentiate between cold war and hot war PW operations. The two are interlaced at several points in the paper and in general there seems to be a tendency to regard the two as really being the same problem. From our point of view, it is most important to differentiate between what kind of covert PW operation should be conducted short of the opening of hostilities and what kind after. It may be that certain methods and kinds of cover should be reserved for war conditions. At any rate, we should like to suggest that the plan be examined again with this point in mind.

The sample section on targets and tasks vis-a-vis the Soviet Union shows no serious points of conflict with the overt propaganda planning for the USSR.

When the Annex reaches its final form, I hope it will be possible for Mr. Barrett to be supplied with a copy so that planning for overt PW can proceed in a manner that will be consonant with covert plans.

P:JDevine:dc  
cc: P - Mr. Barrett  
P - Mr. Stephens

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